

The Knock and the Bin

Greig~Duncan 8/1925

Only two verses of this powerful little song were collected by Gavin Greig. The Knock and the Bin are two hills which lie between Huntly and the Moray Firth, and the story most likely refers to an incident during the Highland Clearances, where an elderly couple were forced from their croft. Tom composed a simple tune to fit the words.

Cauld blaws the win' ower the Knock and the Bin
A' the earth is asleep in its blanket o' snaw
I aince had a hame I could aye ca' my ain
But the Laird and his factor hae turned me awa'

My wife she grat sair and it whitened her hair
Fan forced fae the craft we had laboured sae lang
Now her soul is at rest in the hame o' the best
And her body is laid far the richest maun gang

But it'scauld blaws the win' ower the Knock and the Bin
A' the earth is asleep in its blanket o' snaw
I aince had a hame I could aye ca' my ain
But the Laird and his factor hae turned me awa'

ain=own
aince=once
awa=away
aye=always
blaws=blows
ca=call
cauld=cold
craft=croft
fae=from
fan=when
far=where
gang=go
grat=cried/wept
hae=have
hame=home
Laird=Lord/land owner
lang=long
maun=must
o=of
sae=so
sair=sorely/bitterly
snaw=snow
win=wind